

Showalter (Gartch) Log House
Near Salem
Roanoke County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-359

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

GARTCH (SHOWALTER) LOG HOUSE
Near Salem, Roanoke Co., Va.

Owner: Not known

Date: 18th Century

Builder: Not known

Condition: poor

Description: This is an important survival of an 18th century Pennsylvania-German pioneer's home built on the Virginia frontier. It has several contemporaries in the Shenandoah and Page valleys. It is built of logs hewn to the form of thick planks which were dovetailed at the corners. The house is two full stories high, below a low gable roof, the ridge of which has recently been lowered. In plan the house is divided roughly in two by a cross partition, then again by a longitudinal partition, which is further toward the rear than the front. The stair ascends in the southeast corner of the southeast room, and is sheathed in. The partitions are largely vertical pine sheathing with bead and bevel joints and the doors are four panel with the same moulding. The cellar is the most interesting feature of the house, on account of its huge size. The hill sloping steeply away from the front of the house produces a cellar twelve feet or so high, and extending under the entire building. At the south side there is a spring which flows across the floor in a small stream and in turn out of the rear door. The windows of the house are largely composed of horizontally sliding sash, in a sense a transition between casements and double hung sash.

Additional Data: A fine photograph of the building in its original condition was taken for the Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture by Frances Benjamin Johnston.

Thomas T. Waterman
June 17, 1941